

Meeting Minutes

Board of Education ♦ Niles Township High Schools ♦ District 219 ♦ Cook County, Illinois
January 12, 2015

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

Board President Robert Silverman called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Board Members Present at Roll Call: Carlton Evans, Jeffrey Greenspan, Ruth Klint, David Ko, Robert Silverman, Eileen Valfer.

Absent: Sheri Doniger

II. Closed Session

It was moved by KO and seconded by VALFER to recess into closed session to discuss the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of employees and collective bargaining. A roll call vote was taken.

Voting Aye:

Evans, Greenspan, Klint, Ko, Silverman, Valfer.

The motion carried.

The Board recessed into Closed Session at 7:05 p.m.

III. Open Session

It was moved by KLINT and seconded by EVANS to return to Open Session at 8:10 p.m.

A roll call vote was taken.

Voting Aye:

Evans, Greenspan, Klint, Ko, Silverman, Valfer.

The motion carried.

IV. Recall to Order

Mr. Silverman recalled the meeting to order at 8:13 p.m. The Pledge was recited.

V. Changes / Additions to the Agenda

The green personnel handout and the student discipline matter discussed in Closed Session were added to the Consent Agenda. The Purchase of Folding Chairs and Dollies and the Purchase of Information Technology Staff Augmentation Services were moved to Business. Oakton Community College and Niles Township District 219 Intergovernmental Agreement for Longitudinal Data Sharing and Analysis was also moved to Business.

VI. Audience to Visitors

Tim Miller, a Niles West math teacher and member of the School Day Committee, asked for the Board's input on school day options and financial considerations for school day. Mr. Silverman stated the Board is still receiving information and has not received any financial information. Board members will do a site visit to a school that has some of the options and obtain additional information. Once the information is obtained, it will be discussed in Open Session.

Jesse Sacks, a senior at Niles West High School, feels that he is being not being treated fairly by a faculty member at school and this has been brought to the attention of Administration, but the situation has not yet been resolved. Dr. Gatta stated that this matter is an ongoing investigation with the Illinois State Board of Education and also an ongoing internal investigation.

VII. Student Board Member Comments

Niles West - Cassie Bergman stated the feedback she received from students about taking finals before winter break was popular with students and teachers. In place of the winter dance, students will be taking a cruise boat and tickets went on sale for a cost of \$55.00. As long as weather permits, the boat will take off from Navy Pier on February 7 at 7:00 p.m. 300 tickets will be sold on a first come basis and will first be made available to seniors and juniors. If there are tickets left, they will be sold to sophomores and

freshman. Planning for the Curriculum Activities night will be held on January 21; every club at Niles West will be represented and tours will be given.

Niles North - Rebecca Rabizadeh stated that Student Government spoke to some student clubs members on an informal basis about the new schedule of having finals before winter break and the response was positive. The Student Association sent out a survey to all students to take in their homeroom (one question) to get their feedback. Curriculum Activities night is Thursday, January 22 at 6:30 in the Auditorium. Auroris Dance Company will present its Annual Dance Concert on January 15 at 10:00 a.m. for the community performance. The regular performance will be held on January 17 and 18 at 7:00 p.m. in the Auditorium. Dance Marathon was held on January 9. Pizza Wars will be at Niles North on January 15 at 6:00 p.m. in the main gymnasium. All proceeds benefit the D219 Foundation. The CBS morning show will be at Niles North to interview students, D219 Foundations members and participants in Pizza Wars.

VIII. Community Representative Comments

No community representatives asked to speak.

IX. Approval of Consent Agenda

It was moved by GREENSPAN and seconded by EVANS to approve the Consent Agenda, as amended.

A roll call vote was taken.

Voting Aye:

Evans, Greenspan, Klint, Ko, Silverman, Valfer.

The motion carried.

Included in the consent agenda were:

- Approved Monthly Bills and Payroll in the amount of \$9,161,427.03.

Personnel

- Approved the change for the following certified staff for the 2014-2015 school year:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>POSITION</u>	<u>FROM FTE</u>	<u>TO FTE</u>	<u>EFFECTIVE DATE</u>
Clancy, John	Physical Welfare - MA / Step 5	.2	.3	January 5, 2015

- Approved the resignation of the following support staff for the 2014-2015 school year:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>POSITION</u>	<u>EFFECTIVE DATE</u>
Tran, Kha	Paraprofessional, Special Education	December 19, 2014

- Approved the employment of the following stipend positions for the 2014-2015 school year:

<u>NILES NORTH</u>	<u>NAME</u>
Latino Club, Sponsor	Serrano, Cecilia (.5)
Girls Soccer Coach, Assistant	Vanderjeugd, Terri
GSA, Sponsor	Mbah, Christine

- Approved the employment of the following stipend positions for the 2015-2016 school year:

<u>NILES NORTH</u>	<u>NAME</u>
Boys Soccer, Head	Cejovic, Filip

- Approved the employment of the following certified substitute for the 2014-2015 school year:

<u>NAME</u>
Carson, Katherine
Delisi, Liridona
Gallante, Arielle
Yergler, Benjamin

- Approved the employment of the following support staff for the 2014-2015 school year:

<u>NAME</u>	<u>POSITION</u>	<u>FTE</u>	<u>EFFECTIVE DATE</u>
Yates, James	Paraprofessional, Special Education - P1 / Step 2, 186 calendar	1.0 (Second Semester)	1/13/15

- Approved Minutes of the December 15, 2014 Board of Education meeting - open and closed sessions.
- Approved the Niles Township Property Tax Appeals Coop Payment.
- Approved the Building Maintenance 2015 Summer Work.

X. Superintendent's Report - Dr. Gatta commented that this is the sixth year we are partnering with the different agencies for Coming Together in Skokie. This year Coming Together is on the voices of race in our community. Yesterday was the kickoff and the opening ceremony was at the Holocaust Museum where there were about 400 people plus people in attendance. Of those members attending were Senator Daniel Biss, Mayor and Mrs. Van Dusen, State Representative Jan Schakowsky, CBS Channel 2 Pam Jones, Board members, Ruth Klint, Carlton Evans, Jeff Greenspan, Principals, Ryan McTague, Jason Ness and myself. Dr. Gatta thanked Jim Szczepaniak and Rosamin Bhanpuri who helped to coordinate all the different agencies for the greater community.

Dr. Gatta stated that between now and the next Board meeting there are a number of significant events that will take place: Sunday, January 18, Niles North Performing Arts will chronicle The Story of Emmitt Till; Monday, January 19 is Courageous Conversations where Illinois Secretary of State Jesse White and Skokie Mayor George Van Dusen will be present. In the large program there are over 50 different events being presented at different locations including the Skokie Public Library, Morton Grove Public Library, Lincolnwood Public Library, the different schools and the Village. The authors of the selected texts will also be in the District to interact with our students and the community at large. We welcome the community into our schools to participate in an important conversation which is our voice and how race affects us living and working in this wonderful community.

Dr. Gatta emphasized to the Board of Education how far we have come in the area of STEM education; and particularly in the area of robotics, broadcasting and research. Some of the things that have occurred in the last month include a robotics tournament that was held at Niles North consisting of 32 robotics teams from all over the state in our location. We have become known for robotics in the state. Numerous students attended the Intel Competition, which is the most prestigious science competition. Our students were able to participate because of the hard work of our teachers and the research program in getting them the opportunities in conjunction with world class universities in our own backyard, Northwestern, Loyola, in addition to Oakton and the Science Park.

Finally, broadcasting is amazing. No matter where I am at I can catch the robotics tournament, and catch a game on my cell phone because everything is broadcast live through the Cube. I thank Rob Henderson and his leadership for making that transpire. Dr. Gatta mentioned that she received a letter today from a graduate of Niles North who has now gone into broadcasting at the secondary level and who thanks this District for giving him the opportunity to excel in both the engineering and broadcasting fields as a result of our new STEM sequence of courses. I am really happy that we can show specific examples of our students excelling on an applied level of what this curriculum and what the kind of advancements means to our students ability to be competitive as they leave our doors to and enter into their post secondary plans.

XI. Principals' Report

Niles North - Ryan McTague also attended Coming Together in Skokie and thought it was a great event and a blessing to be in this community. Niles North will be kicking off the second annual Race Week commencing on January 26 - January 30. There will be many opportunities for students to discuss issues of race, equity, community activism and issues of social justice. Individual students will be participating in the Niles North "Story Project," sponsored by Northstar News and IRC Students will select six words that describe "who they are" and write a short narrative of their story. They will then have the opportunity to film their six words and story and send their clip to Northstar News who will post the videos on the Northstar webpage. Many of the stories and web posts will be highlighted throughout Niles North Race Week and at the Black History Unity Assembly in February.

This Friday, before the late start, in honor of the Martin Luther King Holiday, Niles North will hold an MLK "Teach-In for Peace and Justice. The Teach-In will include an historical overview of Dr. King and the civil rights movement, a discussion on contemporary locations of social activism. This is important today especially with what's happening around the country, i.e. New York, Ferguson and allows our students an opportunity to express themselves. Students will have the opportunity to explore ways that they can be civically engaged.

The D219 Robotics Tournament was great. We are the premiere destination for robotics in Illinois. Last Friday night, Niles North wrestling celebrated 50 years of excellence in athletics. We had 40 wrestling alumni come to watch Niles North beat Maine West and their former coach, Steve Poznansky, retired coach and math teacher at Niles North, came back to celebrate the Vikings victory over Maine West. The Best of Second City is coming to Niles North on March 14 at 7:30 p.m. in the Niles North Auditorium. This is the first ever collaboration of the Niles North Athletic Booster Club and Fine Arts Booster Clubs coming together for a fund raiser. You can purchase tickets at www.secondcitycomestonorth.org.

The National Coaches poll came out today and Niles North remains one of the top 10 big teams in the nation.

Niles West - Jason Ness stated that students at Niles West and Niles North put on phenomenal performances at Coming Together in Skokie. The feedback was very positive. We will be sending out a one question survey going out shortly to the homerooms about finals before winter break. Student registration starts tomorrow for the next school year. Curriculum and Activities night will be held on Wednesday, January 21 at Niles West. Registration begins January 30 for current 8th graders. The Illinois 5Essential survey time frame was moved up. The 5Essential survey is given to staff, parents and students asking for their feedback and perceptions about the school and school environment. The survey will go out through March 13. Our goal this year is to exceed the percentage of participation in past years. This will go on the Virtual Illinois Report Card.

Niles West is really proud of one of our seniors at Niles West, Reyvin Reyes, who was selected as one of the Intel Science Talent Search (STS) Semifinalists for his research project on the *Synthesis of Colicin M Using Cell-Free Protein Synthesis*. Reyes is a research student in D219's unique research course, STEM Inquiry and Research (SIR). SIR instructors from Niles West, Ruth Gleicher and JulieAnn Villa, and Northwestern University mentor, Benjamin Des Soye, have been instrumental in supporting Reyes and his project. Reyes is Niles West's second Intel Semifinalist. In 2012, Felix Angelov was selected as an Intel Semifinalist and was one of only 17 students to win Best in Category at the Intel ISEF competition. The Intel Science Talent Search (Intel STS), a program of Society for Science & the Public (SSP) is the nation's most prestigious science research competition for high school seniors.

With the cold days last week, we have rescheduled District 219's Financial Aid Night to Tuesday, January 20 from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. in the Niles North Auditorium. Jerry Cebrzynski, Dean of Financial Aid at Lake Forest College, and a national expert on college financial aid and scholarships, will be the keynote speaker.

High School football ended in November. We had an award winner in the Central Suburban League - Tommie Galanopoulos, a Niles West senior and three year varsity starting quarterback who was voted by coaches as the 2014 Central Suburban (CSL) Offensive Player of the year. Tommie is also an outstanding student. George Tripkos and Daniel Studer were named the IHA Football Coaches Association Academic All State team. This is a tremendous honor for George and Daniel.

The MLK Assembly will be held in the morning on Thursday, January 22 at Niles West.

XII. Board Members' Comments

Second City will be coming to Niles North. Jeff Greenspan commented that this is the second time that Second City will be coming Niles North. They came for the first time when Jeff Greenspan's class decided to have them instead of their homecoming dance.

Niles North and Niles West are listed in the top 25 schools for diversity and it is something we should be proud of and build on.

Carlton Evans stated that he is very proud of this community because it took a lot of courage to do what was done by students and older individuals yesterday in Voices of Race. He got a different perspective from this instead of viewing it as black and white.

XIII. Board Committee Reports

CSSI is meeting this Wednesday. EPAC has not met since the last Board meeting. The Classrooms First Steering Committee with District 69 will meet the first week in February.

The Facilities Committee met and discussed projects that will be completed this summer. All other projects are on schedule. The Facilities Committee also approved going forward with the preliminary plans for School Health Clinics at North and West. Jeff Greenspan attended a meeting with the architects and Heartland. Heartland received a grant of \$1.3 million dollars from the NorthShore Health Foundation to build out both facilities. Hopefully, by July we will have the health clinics that will serve our community, students and staff by a well established health care facility. The next Facilities meeting is scheduled in April. Everything is on schedule and on budget.

XIV. Business

FY 2014 Audit

Susan Jones and Colleen DeKraker, representatives from Miller Cooper & Co., Ltd., discussed the Audit Report, Financial Statements and the Communications Letter. The District received an Unmodified Opinion which is the highest level of assurance that the District can receive. The firm Miller Cooper & Co., Ltd. and the engagement team are independent of the District and the audit was performed in accordance with Government Auditing Standards. All significant accounting policies have been disclosed in the Notice to the Financial Statements. The District adopted GASB 65 during Fiscal Year 2014, which are new accounting principles. The objective of GASB 65 is to either properly classify certain items that were previously reported as assets and liabilities as deferred outflows of resources or deferred inflow of resources or recognize certain items that were previously reported as assets and liabilities as outflows of resources (expenses or expenditures) or inflow of resources (revenue). Next year, the District will have to adopt other policies, the most significant being GASB 68 where the unfunded IMRF and TRS liabilities will be reported. The primary objective of GASB 68 is to improve accounting and financial reporting by state and local governments for pensions. It also improves information provided by state and local governmental employers about financial support for pensions that is provided by other entities.

It was moved by VALFER and seconded by KO to approve the FY 2014 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report of Niles Township High School District 219 as presented by Miller Cooper & Co., Ltd.

A roll call vote was taken.

Voting Aye:

Evans, Greenspan, Klint, Ko, Silverman, Valfer.

The motion carried.

School Day Research Update

Dr. Roloff stated that the information that is before the Board tonight is a result of feedback from departments that was gathered by our directors over the course of the fall. Each department is listed with feedback. It is important to see a wide variety of thoughts, concerns, ideas and suggestions. Next month the Board will receive more information, as well as feedback that is on the annual review and some student's information. The conversation tonight is for discussion or questions.

Dr. Gatta asked if the Board would be opposed to a different schedule at Niles Central. Mr. Silverman stated that the Board has not had a discussion on this. The Board does not have any information on the financial impact. The meeting where this was discussed was in Open Session, explaining what the schedule meant and how it worked. Feedback was received regarding pros and cons for each schedule, by department, by constituency, parents, students, and teachers. Mr. Silverman said there is not a perfect solution to the school day schedule, including the one we have. There will be more discussion on this subject. Mr. Silverman requested information on the following: (1) how other districts have handled their school day and what they did to make a decision; (2) visit some of the schools; (3) what problem(s) did this solve for the school; (4) what were the drawback that they did not see coming; (5) what were the schools non-negotiables; and (6) what date did these schools change and what were their test scores previous to the change and after the change.

Bus Service

Dr. Gatta discussed ongoing challenges with Positive Connections, the bus service that serves the high schools and many of the sender districts. She is continuing to work with the Administration from our District and the other school districts to correct this situation. Dr. Gatta will continue to update the Board on this challenge and any resolution of the problems.

Football Scoreboards

At the last Board meeting, the Board requested additional information on the scoreboards. Kendal Griffin answered the questions posed from the last meeting: We can broadcast from the CUBE and we can drop their advertising and have our own. The IHSA does allow replay on the video scoreboard.

It was moved by KO and seconded by GREENSPAN to approve the purchase of video Daktronics and sound systems Scoreboards, Video Displays and Sportsound Stereo Systems for Niles North (\$254,488) and Niles West (247,702) for a total of \$502,190.

A roll call vote was taken.

Voting Aye:

Evans, Greenspan, Ko, Silverman.

Voting Nay: Valfer, Klint.

The motion carried.

Purchase of Information Technology Staff Augmentation Services

District 219 is looking at ways to augment its hiring for positions that have been vacated by staff. The District has worked with this company in the past. There are positions that would be on a project basis and other positions that are on a full time basis, but are related to the technology field which is dynamic and ever changing.

It was moved by KLINT and seconded by VALFER to approve the Purchase of Information Technology Staff Augmentation Services to Paragon Development Systems, Inc. at the specified mark-up percentage at the prevailing market hourly rate for each position.

A roll call vote was taken.

Voting Aye:

Evans, Greenspan, Klint, Ko, Silverman, Valfer.

The motion carried.

Purchase of OFM folding Chairs

Since the District will have about 700 graduates, the District will buy 1,600 folding chairs and 20 dollies. The OFM chairs will be the same color and interchangeable between the two schools.

It was moved by EVANS and seconded by KLINT to approve the Purchase of 1600 OFM Folding Chairs and 20 Dollies to The Office Leader the amount of \$48,213.

A roll call vote was taken.

Voting Aye:

Evans, Greenspan, Klint, Ko, Silverman, Valfer.

The motion carried.

Oakton Community College and Niles Township High School District 219 Intergovernmental Agreement for Longitudinal Data Sharing and Analysis

This is a data sharing agreement with Oakton Community College which will allow us to do various studies with regard to students.

It was moved by VALFER and seconded by KLINT to approve the Oakton Community College and Niles Township High School District 219 Intergovernmental Agreement for Longitudinal Data Sharing and Analysis.

A roll call vote was taken.

Voting Aye:

Evans, Greenspan, Klint, Ko, Silverman, Valfer.

The motion carried.

Plat of Dedication for Niles West

As part of the Intersectional improvement for Niles West, there is new signal detection equipment that has to be installed. In order for IDOT to approve the project, the land (an area is approximately 100 ft. wide and 42 ft. deep) had to be given to IDOT.

It was moved by VALFER and seconded by KLINT to approve the Plat of Dedication to the Illinois Department of Transportation.

A roll call vote was taken.

Voting Aye:

Evans, Klint, Ko, Silverman, Valfer.

Abstaining: Greenspan

The motion carried.

Policy and Procedures First Reading

Dr. Doniger, the Policy Chair, is absent tonight. Mr. Silverman had several questions that were answered by Mr. Heintz. This will be revisited at the next Board meeting.

Policy and Procedures Second Reading

At the last Board meeting the policy about substitute teachers was discussed. This policy was tabled.

It was moved by VALFER and seconded by EVANS to approve Policy and Procedures Second Reading.

A roll call vote was taken.

Voting Aye:

Evans, Greenspan, Klint, Ko, Silverman, Valfer.

The motion carried

The following policy and procedural changes were adopted at the January 12, 2015 Board of Education Meeting.

Number	Name	Changes
5:30	Hiring Process and Criteria	Eliminate TB test requirement pursuant to School Code.
5:30-AP3	Administrative Procedure - Recruitment, Selection, and Employment of Staff	Update Personnel Office to Human Resources Office.
5:150-AP	Administrative Procedure - Personnel Records	Eliminate TB test requirement pursuant to School Code.
5:185	Family and Medical Leave	Reformat policy.
5:260-AP	Administrative Procedure - Student Teacher Observation and Internal Internship Request	Eliminate TB test requirement pursuant to School Code.
6:282	Weighted and Unweighted Grades and Grade Point Averages	Eliminate class rank.
6:282-E1	Exhibit - Grade Weight Criteria Form	Update to current practice.
6:330	Achievement and Awards	Eliminate class rank.
7:30	Student Assignment and Intra-District Transfer	Eliminate class rank.
7:30-AP2	Administrative Procedure - Transfer Courses and Assignment	Eliminate class rank.
7:340-AP1	Administrative Procedure - School Student Records	Eliminate class rank.
7:340-AP1, E1	Exhibit - Notice to Parent(s)/Guardian(s) and Students of Their Rights Concerning a Student's School Records	Eliminate class rank.

XV. Old Business

There was no old business.

XVI. New Business

There was no new business.

XVII. Audience to Visitors (on items related to District business)

Frank Sacks, the father of Jesse Sacks, spoke stating that he wanted to reiterate what his son said earlier in the Board meeting.

XVIII. Information Items

- Financial Report for November 2014
- Freedom of Information Requests (FOIA)

XIX. Closed Session

It was moved by KLINT and seconded by KO to recess into Closed Session for purposes of personnel and adjourn to Open Session with action taken.

A roll call vote was taken.

Voting Aye: Evans, Ko, Greenspan, Klint, Silverman, Valfer.

The motion carried.

The meeting adjourned to Closed Session at 10:50 p.m.

Voting Aye:

Evans, Greenspan, Klint, Ko, Silverman, Valfer.

The motion carried.

The meeting adjourned to Open Session at 11:10 p.m.

President

Secretary